

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-07 MC-02 IGA-02
EB-08 /099 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6017
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03618

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, MASS, MBFR, AWACS, GW
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION DEFENSE SPOKESMAN THREATENS TO
VOTE AGAINST FURTHER PURCHASES OF U.S. WEAPONS

1. ACCORDING TO DPA OF FEBRUARY 25, THE CDU/CSU
OPPOSITION DEFENSE SPOKESMAN, DR. MANFRED WOERNER, HAS
ISSUED A STATEMENT STRONGLY CRITICAL OF THE U.S. POST-
PONEMENT OF THE TANK GUN DECISION. IN HIS STATEMENT,
WOERNER, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE BUNDESTAG DEFENSE
COMMITTEE, ALSO ADDRESSED OTHER DEFENSE AND DISARMAMENT
ISSUES.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED TEXT:

"BONN -- THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE BUNDESTAG DEFENSE
COMMITTEE, MANFRED WOERNER, CDU, HAS STRONGLY CRITI-
CIZED THE UNITED STATES FOR 'PULLING OUT' OF LAST JUNE'S
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE FRG TO
STANDARDIZE THEIR TANK PRODUCTION. WOERNER TOLD
DPA IN BONN TODAY THAT HE IS NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS
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THE PURCHASE OF FURTHER U.S. WEAPONS SYSTEMS FOR THE
FEDERAL ARMED FORCES UNLESS THE AMERICANS ARE WILLING TO
ACCEPT A 'TWO-WAY STREET' IN THE STANDARDIZATION DRIVE.
'WE WILL NOT TOLERATE THE U.S. SENATE BLOCKING THE INTRO-
DUCTION OF GERMAN COMPONENTS FOR THE U.S. XM-1 TANK,'
WOERNER SAID WITH GREAT EMPHASIS.

WOERNER'S CRITICISM WAS DIRECTED AGAINST THE FACT, WHICH HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY OBVIOUS RECENTLY, THAT THE UNITED STATES CLEARLY WISHES TO WITHDRAW FROM THE JOINT GERMAN-U.S. TANK PROJECT CONSISTING OF COMPONENTS FROM THE LEOPARD MARK II AND THE XM-1. THE DECISION ON THE ADOPTION OF THE GERMAN GUN FOR THE U.S. TANK WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN ON JANUARY 1 OF THIS YEAR HAS BEEN POSTPONED BY WASHINGTON UNTIL THE END OF 1977.

AFTER HIS VISIT TO NATO LEADERS IN BRUSSELS, WOERNER TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT ALSO IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE THE PREVAILING VIEW IS THAT THE ADVANTAGE OF WESTERN WEAPONS IN QUALITY IS DISAPPEARING. THE BELIEF IN BRUSSELS IS THAT THE TIME IS NOT FAR OFF WHEN THE QUALITY OF WESTERN WEAPONS SYSTEMS WILL NO LONGER OUTWEIGH THE QUANTITY OF THE WEAPONS OF THE WARSAW PACT. WOERNER HAD MET WITH NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS, NATO COMMANDER IN CHIEF HAIG AND THE GERMAN REPRESENTATIVES AT NATO. THE CONSENSUS AT THESE MEETINGS WAS THAT STRATEGIC SUPERIORITY CANNOT COMPENSATE FOR LACK OF DEFENSIVE STRENGTH AND THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO INCREASE THE CONVENTIONAL DETERRENT.

ACCORDING TO WOERNER, IT MUST BE MADE CLEAR TO THE UNITED STATES THAT THERE CAN BE NO EFFECTIVE DETERRENT IN EUROPE WITHOUT THE NUCLEAR ENGAGEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. EUROPE'S INTERESTS IN THE FUTURE OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE MUST BE EFFECTIVELY MADE CLEAR TO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON LED BY PRESIDENT CARTER. EUROPE MUST NOT BE EXCLUDED FROM THE STRATEGIC

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NUCLEAR SHIELD OF THE UNITED STATES BY THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS. TURNING TO THE VIENNA TROOP REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS (MBFR), WOERNER SAID THAT THERE MUST BE NO SYMBOLIC ADVANCE AGREEMENT. HE EXPRESSLY REJECTED SPD CHAIRMAN BRANDT'S SUGGESTION FOR A SYMBOLIC REDUCTION OF U.S. AND SOVIET FORCES DURING THE FIRST STAGE OF AN MBFR AGREEMENT."

END TEXT.

2. THE FEBRUARY 26 ISSUE OF TWO OF GERMANY'S MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPERS INDICATED THAT WOERNER REFERRED DIRECTLY TO AWACS IN HIS REMARKS. THE "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG" (CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENT) QUOTED WOERNER AS SAYING THAT HE WOULD NOT THINK OF SUPPORTING THE PROCUREMENT OF AWACS IF THE U.S. IS NOT PREPARED TO BUY WEAPONS FROM ITS EUROPEAN PARTNERS IN ORDER TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS STANDARDIZATION AND IN ORDER TO MAKE NATO ARMAMENTS PURCHASES

SOMETHING MORE THAN A ONE-WAY STREET. RUEDIGER MONIAC'S

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INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03618

ARTICLE IN "DIE WELT" (RIGHT CENTER) QUOTED WOERNER IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FASHION. ACCORDING TO MONIAC, WOERNER SAW LITTLE CHANCE FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC TO PROCURE AN AWACS SYSTEM COSTING BILLIONS IF THERE IS NO STANDARDIZATION OF VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF THE GERMAN AND U.S. TANKS (GUN, ENGINE AND TRACK). MONIAC WENT ON TO SAY THAT WOERNER INTENDS TO MAKE THIS RELATIONSHIP CLEAR TO RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS IN WASHINGTON DURING HIS NEXT VISIT TO THE U.S. AND THAT HE WOULD "NOT MINCE HIS WORDS." END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: FOR SOME TIME NOW THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN HEARING RUMBLINGS OF DISCONTENT OVER THE U.S. POST-PONEMENT OF THE TANK GUN DECISION. AS WE HAVE FREQUENTLY REPORTED, GERMANS TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THEIR TANK PROWESS AND WOERNER'S REMARKS WILL CERTAINLY STRIKE A RESPONSIVE CHORD AMONG THE GERMAN PUBLIC.

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WE ARE NOT CERTAIN HOW SERIOUS WOERNER IS ABOUT REFUSING TO VOTE FOR THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL U.S. WEAPONS SYSTEMS UNLESS THE U.S. IMPROVES ITS RECORD IN MAKING NATO WEAPONS STANDARDIZATION A TWO-WAY STREET. WHILE WOERNER IS CHAIRMAN OF THE BUNDESTAG DEFENSE COMMITTEE AND HENCE PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ITS ACTIVITIES, THE SPD/FDP RATHER THAN WOERNER'S CDU/CSU HAS A MAJORITY ON THAT COMMITTEE AS ON ALL COMMITTEES. CERTAINLY WOERNER DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME KIND OF POWER THAT AN AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MIGHT HAVE. NEVERTHELESS, HIS STATEMENT IS ANOTHER STRAW IN THE WIND INDICATING GERMAN DISSATISFACTION WITH U.S. PERFORMANCE IN THE TWO-WAY STREET, A DISSATISFACTION WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE A DIRECT BEARING ON GERMAN RELUCTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A NATO AWACS PROGRAM. END COMMENT.
STOESSEL

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